

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-02 HA-05 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12  
NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
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R 241724Z JAN 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9177  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0206

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC  
SUBJ: GETTING READY FOR THE HUMAM RIGHTS COMMISSION:  
CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK WITH WEO MEMBERS

REF: (A) GENEVA 12659 (B) GENEVA 0765

1. AT USUN'S INVITATION, REPS OF 6 OF THE 8 WEO MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) THIS YEAR MET DURING A BLIZZARD ON JANUARY 20 AT USUN. FRANCE DID NOT APPEAR THOUGH INVITED, AND TURKEY WAS LEFT ASIDE DURING THIS FIRST ROUND. PRESENT WERE UK, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA. UK, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND THE US WERE REPRESENTED BY MISOFFS WHO WILL ALSO BE ON THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS AT GENEVA AT THE HRC THIS YEAR. AUSTRIAN AND SWEDE DID NOT HAVE ANY GUIDANCE FROM THEIR CAPITALS AND ONLY TOOK NOTES ON THE PLANS OF OTHERS. MARK SCHNEIDER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, HA, ALSO ATTENDED.

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2. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED BY THOSE WHO HAD GUIDANCE THAT CANADA'S BID FOR THE WESTERN SPOT ON THE BUREAU WOULD BE SUPPORTED. IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT CANADA SHOULD ALSO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE WEO GROUP, AND THAT THE WEO GROUP SHOULD PLAN AN INFORMAL MEETING IN THE BAR OF THE AMANT (WHERE APPARENTLY MOST OF US WILL BE STAYING)

AT 6:30 PM ON SUNDAY NIGHT FEBRUARY 5, IN ADDITION TO THE MEETING ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT MORNING OF THE WEOS (REFTEL A, PARA 5). CANADA IS CONTINUING TO POLL THE OTHER WEOS BY PHONE TO SEE IF THERE IS SOLID SUPPORT FOR THEIR CANDIDACY. THE GROUP AGREED THAT ASSUMING THERE WAS SOLID SUPPORT, WE SHOULD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FORWARD ALL SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE AGENDA AND WORK PLAN OF THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE HRC TO THE NEAREST MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO BE FORWARDED TO AMBASSADOR BEAULNE.

3. SCHNEIDER RAISED THE US DESIRE TO DEFER ITEM 4 (QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE) TO NEXT YEAR, AND ADVANCED THE US ARGUMENTS. THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION TO THE SUGGESTION, BUT SOME SKEPTICISM AS TO ITS POSSIBILITY.

4. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT, IN THE WORDS OF THE CANADIAN, THAT THE "WORK PROGRAM OF THE HRC IS A MESS." THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE AS MUCH CONSULTATION ON VITAL ISSUES IN GENEVA AND NEW YORK, AND GOING TO CAPITALS, BEFORE GENEVA AS PRACTICAL, TO GET THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS STARTED EARLIER. THE UK REP EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LONGER HRC SESSIONS, OR AN ADDITIONAL SESSION EACH YEAR. IT WAS MENTIONED THAT PERHAPS A SPECIAL SESSION DEVOTED TO L.17 COULD BE HELD.  
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5. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF THE POTENTIAL, OR LACK THEREOF, OF 1503 PROCEDURES. TWO POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION UNDER 1503 WERE DISCUSSED: 1) SENDING A SPECIAL EMISSARY OR RAPPORTEUR FROM THE HRC, AND 2) RECOMMENDING TO ECOSOC THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP. AMBASSADOR BEULNE'S SUGGESTION (REFTEL B, PARA 2) WAS RAISED BY THE CANADIAN, AND VERY FAVORABLY RECEIVED. IT WAS AGREED THAT 1503 MUST BE TRIED THIS YEAR IF IT IS TO MAINTAIN ITS LEGITIMACY, AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF 1503 ACTION WOULD BE TO GET ACTION FROM THE AFFECTED GOVERNMENT MORE THAN JUST TO PRODUCE ANOTHER STUDY.

6. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. THE UK THOUGHT THE "ISSUE MUST BE RAISED, AND THE MOMENTUM KEPT." AUSTRALIAN SAW A PROCESS, FROM HRC TO ECOSOC TO GA THIS FALL, AS NECESSARY, BUT THOUGHT THE PROPOSAL NEEDED SOME MODIFICATIONS AND WORK ON IT, AND URGED QUICK CONSULTATIONS.

7. THE SWEDISH DRAFT OF A TORTURE CONVENTION WAS DISTRIBUTED, BUT IT WAS AGREED THAT CONSULTATIONS IN NYC PRIOR TO REACTIONS FROM CAPITALS TO THIS DRAFT WOULD BE REL-

TIVELY A WASTE OF TIME.

8. THE AUSTRALIAN TENTATIVELY AGREED TO CALL A MEETING  
OF ALL THE WEOS NEXT WEEK, IF IT STOPS SNOWING.  
LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

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